



Beauty and History.

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A SERMON

OCCASIONED

BY THE DEATH

MAJOR GEN. BROCK

WHO FELL IN THE BATTLE OF QUEBEC, LOWER CANADA,
ON THE 13th DAY OF OCTOBER, 1813.

PREACHED AT ROCKVILLE, ELIZABETHTOWN,
NOVEMBER THE 13th, 1813.

BY THE REV. WILLIAM SMART.

The Beauty of Israel is often upon thy high places:

PUBLISHED BY REQUEST.

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1814.

Advertisement.

THE Author is aware that there is not any thing in the following discourse, that renders it more worthy of the public attention, than thousands of Sermons, which never have, nor never will see the light. But the present situation of the country, the hope that the impression made on its delivery, may be revived, and the gratification of complying with the following, will, he conceives, be a sufficient apology for his intruding on the public notice.

Brockville, 15th November, 1812.

DEAR SIR—

At the earnest desire of the officers stationed at this post, and the gentlemen of the village, I request that you will favor the public by printing the Sermon preached by you this morning, on the death of Major General Brock.

I am Sir, your obedient servant,

LEVIUS P. SHERWOOD,

Lt. Col. Com. at Brockville.

Rev. William Stuart, Brockville

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A SERMON.

HOW ARE THE MIGHTY FALLEN, IN THE MIDST OF THE BATTLE!

2 SAMUEL, 1 CHAP. 25 VERSE.

WE Live in an eventful period ; a period so remarkable that it is unparalled in the page of history. Nations have risen up against nations and kingdoms against kingdoms, scenes the most magnificent and sublime have been exhibited on the theatre of the world ; scenes that must have astonished even the minds of Angels—scenes that were rendered magnificent by blood ! Europe in a particular manner has hitherto been the stage on which those scenes have been exhibited. What armies there rush to battle to shed blood ! *How are the mighty fallen*, and the weapons of war perished ! Kings have abdicated their thrones.— Governments the most stable have been overturned and nations the most powerful have been shaken. America has hereto only been a spectator of those sublime scenes, and a witness of those important events, that have long shaken the powers of Europe : she at length begins to be convulsed and is about to share in the general consternation.

THE United States, having assumed so hostile an attitude against Great Britain and her dependencies, has brought to this land of quietness, peace and repose, the clamour of war and the horrors of Bloodshed. Already have we seen our terri-

ories invaded, our frontiers molested and garments rolled in blood. Instead of the implements of war being beaten into the implements of husbandry: alas! the peaceful instruments of agriculture are employed in the hostile operations of a cruel and unnatural war! Oh that after the thunder of these divine judgments that have visited our land, the voice of the gospel of peace may be sounded far and wide.

I do not mean at present to examine the reasons assigned on the part of the United States, for the present war. Suffice it at present to say, that if the enemy has any real cause for declaring war against our mother country, still these Provinces would have every reason for making a vigorous and obstinate resistance, as we are only acting on the defensive. Whatever is valuable in the constitution under which we live, whatever is tender in nature from the relations we sustain, and whatever is sacred in the religion we profess, calls loudly on us for our exertion on the present occasion. Let then your attachment to the best of constitutions, loyalty to a King, who has been your nursing father, and the love you bear to your families, your lives and property, plead with you to "*quit yourselves like men.*"

By a succession of prosperous events, providence has smiled on our attempts, by inspiring our troops with more than ordinary bravery, and by rendering successful the plans of our General.

THE scale of warfare in this country is vastly different in point of magnitude, from that in Europe. The armies that have been marched into the field by a Wellington, and an Alexander, have astonished our minds, and the splendor of

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their victories has dazzled our imagination; but their splendour does not eclipse the lustre of the surrender of Detroit and the hard fought battle at Queenston. The conquests of a Wellington and Alexander, are not more brilliant than the achievements of a Brock and a Sheaffe, when numbers are compared. Victory has been written on the shield of Britain, and her little army in Upper Canada, when led by a Brock, returned with the spoils of a foe, sufficient in number to overwhelm his handful of troops. Should the enemy again attempt to cross the St. Lawrence, the trophies of victory shall be laid at the feet of the British commander.

BUT among those splendid achievements won by British arms, and those glorious victories which we sing; *How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle!* Alas, our Brock is slain! Brock the wise—Brave—Beloved Brock is no more! At the remembrance of his virtues, at the recollection of the loss we have sustained in his lamented death, in the midst of our victories, let us rejoice with trembling. Let the Canadas express their sorrow in sympathetic groans. Let the melancholy sound of our grief and sighs spread far and wide. Let the wide swelling waves of the Atlantic roll the tide of our grief to the sea girt Isle of Britain.

My design on the present occasion is, First, to present some things that were conspicuous in the character of General Brock, whose death we deplore. These I shall exhibit for your imitation, and Secondly, Make such serious reflections as the subject may suggest—these I shall set forth for your religious improvement. I commence with endeavouring to exhibit some things that were conspicuous in the character of General Brock, for your imitation.

FULLY to unfold the character of the deceased General is what I am unable to do, what may be said in the sequel of the following discourse, I trust will be found consistent with truth.

THE first thing that I shall mention is that he was wise. This was particularly visible in his civil administration of the affairs of this Province, as well as in his military arrangements. How important was the crisis when he first had the reins of the government placed in his hands? At this period we were evidently a divided and consequently a weak people; but from a wise and judicious arrangement of his public plans, and a moderate exercise of the authority with which he was clothed, we soon became united as the heart of one man, in the cause of our king and country. Those party disputes which are so warmly contended for by little minds, he treated with that indifference which their insignificance required. His mind aspired to larger objects.—The union of the people and the prosperity of the Province.

THE plans that he laid and the manner of executing them, shew that he was no stranger to human nature, and that he was well acquainted with the diversity of human character.

THE knowledge of human nature is a science of the highest importance to all; but especially to those in stations of public trust. May our civil magistrates and military commanders cultivate this most important of all knowledge; the most beneficial effects will certainly be the result. Of this our beloved President and gallant General, who is now no more, was an eminent example, and presents the most encouraging motives to acquire an extensive knowledge of

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ourselves and the duties which devolve upon us as members of families, of churches and of the civil community to which we belong.

BUT further from his attention to the ordinances of the gospel; his early Proclamation for a day of public fasting and humiliation before God, his efforts to increase piety, morality and good order in society; must we not conclude that his wisdom was from above? and that among his civil and military avocations he did not omit to devote himself to the father of mercies and to the study and practice of true piety?

VIRTUE is an honorable and an extensive name. it is confined to no one particular situation in life; but it shines with peculiar amiableness and lustre when in an elevated station. How severely does the character of our late wife and brave General reprove those who because they are in the high walks of life, think they are above the practice of virtue, or the performances of the christian duties of the sanctuary or of the closet.

A second characteristic of Major General Brock, whose wisdom rendered him so eminently suitable for the high and honorable station which he filled, was his liberality.

RELIGIOUS bigotry is a quality of a little mind. The General possessing liberality of sentiment in so eminent a degree, united with an ardent desire to see the interest of religion and morality increased, that I had almost put on the air of a prophet, and laying aside my usual diffidence as to things in futurity, was about to predict a most favorable

change in religion and morality. But alas ! The fair scene and the animating prospect is beclouded. A holy and wise Providence called him from civil to military scenes, there he laid down a life that was dear to the people of these Provinces. Ah me ! Our Brock is slain ! *How are the mighty fallen in the midst of the battle !* He fell in defence of his country and laws ; but may we not fondly hope that he will move in a more exalted sphere, and like the sun he only sets to rise in greater splendor.

HAD the people of these Provinces begun to imitate the example of this great man sooner, and imbibed more of his noble spirit, what important services might they have rendered to society, and how extensively useful might they have been in increasing the knowledge of the Saviour of mankind, and in extending the boundaries of the kingdom of the Prince of Peace ? Perish then the bigotry that has cramped your exertions in the cause of truth and benevolence, assume a decisive and energetic tone against vice and irreligion, and by your christian liberality and conversation manifest that you are the children of the light and of the day.

A third feature in the character of General Brock, which is worthy of notice, was his humanity.

THE treatment which our enemies received after the capitulation of Detroit, in allowing the whole of the militia, after invading our peaceful territories, to return to their homes and families, the attention paid to the officers, and the kind treatment paid to the men while prisoners of war,

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are lasting monuments in the hearts, and in the land of our
enemies, of the humanity of our late commander.

AND who but one *who* had the wisdom of a Brock,
could have been able to restrain the savages from committing
the most barbarous outrages on the invaders of their lands
and rights? Who but one who had the humanity of Brock,
would have been inclined to restrain those rude and savage
warriors? Had he been possessed of only the common
humanity of conquerors, he would have taken off all restraint
from the Indians, and suffered them to sing the war hoop,
and to join in the war dance, on the possessions of our in-
vaders. On their frontiers their houses might have been
burnt, their farms plundered, and they butchered in their
beds. Their wives taken captive and their children massa-
cred, and our eyes might have turned away with horror
and disgust from the scalps of our enemies, clotted with
gore! These might have been the dreadful trophies of
the Indians' conquest, and they would have been, if Brock
had not been as humane as he was brave. In this respect he
was a true Briton, as Britain in every age, has been cele-
brated for her humanity. Her metropolis stands first in the
list of cities for benevolent institutions. Remember that it
is an maxim never to be departed from, that the gospel that
bringeth salvation, teaches us, *to weep with those that weep.*
To feel for others woes, is only to be like him, who was the
friend and pattern of our race.

A fourth thing that was conspicuous in the character of
our illustrious hero, was his patriotism.

THE love of his country early glowed in his breast, and induced him to devote the flower of his days to the service of his King and country. His patriotism prompted him to continue his services, when many circumstances tended to justify retirement and rest ; having been more fully employed than many officers of his standing, he had done his full share of service ; nor had he been more active and enterprising than successful. After being of the most essential service to his country, and displaying the most signal courage in Holland and Copenhagen, he is called to the exercise of his professional talents in Canada : where he was raised to the administration of the government of this Province. His country again calls him into active scenes ; he obeys her summons—quits the house of Assembly—seizes the sword—pursues the flying enemy, and the very terror of his name adds wings to their flight. Sandwich is evacuated by the enemy, Brock pursues them with his little band of heroes to Detroit, and compels the enemy, consisting of two thousand five hundred men, thirty pieces of cannon, two thousand five hundred stand of arms, and two stand of colours to capitulate. Such were the fruits of Brock's patriotism, and the success attending the British arms in Canada, at the commencement of the present war.

LET me hold up the patriotism of Brock for your example. Let the enemy on yonder shores be more afraid of your wisdom and patriotism, than they are alarmed at the sound of the Indian war hoop ; or a host of Indians equipped for their savage warfare. Remember that religion and patriotism, are the best constituents of a good soldier.

To his wisdom, liberality, humanity and patriotism, he added the virtue of bravery.

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COURAGE or bravery is a noble virtue, and stands in opposition to fear and shame; it guards the mind against the evil of both these feelings. Courage is essential to a soldier. General Brock possessed this virtue in an uncommon degree. How can I expect the men to go where I am afraid to lead? was one of the expressions of this brave man. The station that he filled when he received his mortal wound, was a demonstration that he was not ashamed to own, or afraid to lead his men into the field of battle.

It is the advice of a holy Apostle to the Philippian christians, whenever a suitable opportunity is given them, that they should display their courage and fortitude; whether it be in defence of the rights of mankind, the liberties of their country, or the vindication of the cause of God. Consider these opportunities, christians, as fit for displaying your courage; and make it appear, that the *meek of the earth* can resist the oppressions of the mighty; shew that your patriotism & courage are of the first order, and that you are ready to give up all that nature calls dear, for the cause of God, the interest of your country, and for the welfare of your fellow creatures. The present crisis, my brethren, is a call in providence to arms; place your dependence on the God of battles, and may your courage be like those,

Whose courage dwelt not in a troubled flood,
Of mounting spirits, and fermenting blood—but
Lodg'd in the soul, with virtue overrul'd,
Inflam'd by reason and by reason cool'd.

ADDISON,

LET us be of good courage; and play the man for our people, and for the cities of our God; and the Lord do what seemeth him good.

Remember the character of Brock ; a character founded on such principles as his, cannot but be beloved. Yes, Oh Brock !—Thy remembrance is dear to our hearts ; and among the names that shall be preserved from the wreck of time, thine shall be one. It shall descend to future ages ; distant historians shall read thy fame, and future poets sing thy achievements.

While God, my friends, who is the allwise disposer of men and events, saw fit to call one from the field of action, who was so eminently qualified for the civil and military stations which he held, it should afford us matter of joy, that he finally crowned the British arms with success.—

Let us

SECONDLY, seriously reflect on this mysterious dispensation of divine providence, for our religious improvement.

In the First place, it seriously impresses on our minds the universality of mortality.

How are the mighty fallen !—Fallen under the superior power of death !—Death the king of terrors, and the monarch of the tomb !—How wide his dominions !—How extensive are his conquests !—He is a conqueror whom riches cannot bribe, nor power resist. Like a mighty monarch death has slain millions of the human race, and though he has mowed down one generation after another till the present period ; yet he has never said, it is enough : but still continues his dreadful havoc ; his arm is strong, and his heart is cruel. No monarch, however mighty, can resist his power ; however extensive his dominions, can escape his arrest : no circumstance, however distressing, can move his heart to sympathy. No ! he is uninfluenced by the voice of pity, and compassion is a stranger to his bosom.

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Oh death, how mighty ! how cruel art thou ! thy terror is universal to our race ; an awful sentence, that we have all become guilty before God ! *Thou O death, art the author of the widows sigh ! the cause of the orphans distress ! and the occasion of the mothers grief !*

How powerful is Death. The fortified palace of the King can no more resist his approach, than the humble cottage of the peasant. He ascends the thrones of monarchs, as well as visits the habitations of the poor. The noble and the ignoble, the learned and the untaught, the brave and the low, ALL, all must fall by the stroke of death.

If temperance, the best preservative of health and life, if extensive usefulness, if the united prayers of these Provinces, if the collected virtues of the man and the General, could have secured an *earthly immortality*—NEVER, O BROCK ! *never should thy fall have added new honors to the trophies of death !* Oh Canada, the beauty of Israel is slain on thy high places ! *How are the mighty fallen !* Brock, like Nelson, died in the arms of victory, and the Angel of death intertwined around his brow the wreath of laurels !

But my friends, if the mighty fall, shall not the feeble tremble ? *O that you were wise*, that you understood this dispensation of Providence towards our country ; it is *that you may consider your latter end*. The alarm of mortality is sounded from the heights on which Brock was seated. For you he lived ; for you he dies ; he dies to remind you, that you all must die.

Secondly. This subject fills our minds with the keenest feelings of regret, at the calamities of war.

War is an awful visitation of divine providence to any country; but especially a new country like Canada. A commercial country may soon retrieve itself by launching forth into trade. War is calculated to ruin an agricultural country; already have we suffered much in this point of view. How pleasing to reflect that those gay meadows, highly cultivated fields, and luxurious orchards, only thirty years past were an immense wilderness, inhabited by savages and beasts of prey. Mighty change, to be effected by the industry of so short a period: And is this toil to be for naught? Are we again to leave our comfortable dwellings, and cultivated farms to flee to the woods from an invading army, and the horrors of war? How uncertain is the possession of our comforts, and even our lives while surrounded by the calamities of war. Many in this early state of hostilities, have lost their lives, others perhaps, what was dearer to them than life.

Although Brock is the distinguished object of regret, yet, who can think on the awful day on which he fell, and not remember the brave companions of his toils and conflicts, and those who fell with him in the glorious contest? These brave men have left either parents or children, to lament, even that day, which to the Province was a day of triumph. Ah me! that day to them is imbittered by the loss of their all! Do you not shudder, christian friends of humanity, at the dreadful scene, at the various places of attack? See the edifice erected to justice environed in flames! See families fleeing to the woods for safety! women alarmed for their husbands! children weeping for their fathers! See boats loaded with reinforcements sinking in the current by our artillery! the enemy driven from the post at the

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point of the bayonet! Many leap the craggy precipice and
 are dashed to pieces in the fall. Some fall on the point of
 their own swords and bayonets, while others are tomahawk-
 ed in the river by Indians. See on the enemy's shore, their
 cannon bursting and their magazine blown up. Oh! dread-
 ful calamities of war! Who does not pray for the universal
 spread of the gospel of peace, that shall teach men to *beat*
their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning-
hooks, nation shall not rise up against nation, neither shall they
learn war any more!

Christians, the religion which you profess, commands
 you to weep and sympathize with the widows and fatherless
 children on both sides of the St. Lawrence.

Thirdly. It strongly inculcates on our mind, sentiments
 of gratitude to God, for mingling so many blessings, with
 this awful dispensation of his providence.

Awful as the calamities of war are, how many mercies
 have we continued unto us; yes my friends, at the recollec-
 tion of the mercies we have received, and the many privi-
 leges we enjoy, let gratitude swell our bosoms and praise
 dwell on our lips; for our ingratitude, the besom of des-
 truction might have swept us and our privileges away.—
 O astonishing mercy, that the sword of war has not long
 ere now been wet with the blood of a guilty nation! O won-
 derous power that preserves our bleeding country from ex-
 piring with her wounds! why have the wheels of the
 dreadful chariot of war been so tardy? why have not our
 ears long ere now been stann'd with the roar of cannon,

and our souls affrighted with the cruel havoc of the tomahawk and the scalping knife ? It is because *the Lord is slow to anger, and plentiful in mercy* ; O lift the Son, and bow to the scepter of his grace, lest by your ingratitude you kindle his anger, but a little and you perish from the way.

Thousands of our fellow creatures have bid farewell to the scenes of mortality, even since we have entered these walls ! Why are we not among the number ? Why has not your fond mother wept over your breathless corpse, and your mouldering dust ? Why have you not long ere now been entombed in the earth ? Why has not your father buried with your ashes the urn that contained his hopes ? Repeat if you can the mercies you have received, and the blessings you still enjoy : and endeavor to make a suitable return of gratitude to God.

It should increase our gratitude, when we reflect, that the most high, who ruleth in the Kingdoms of men, has been pleased to turn the scale of victory so much in our favor, as to produce a total defeat of the force that lauded ! To conclude.

Let us Fourthly, turn our eyes from the death of Brock, and the victory of Queenston, to the *Death of the Son of God*, and the victory won on *Calvary*.

Is the remembrance of Brock dear to us, from the services he rendered to his country ? How much more indebted should the Saviour, *the Captain of our Salvation*, be to us ? Who, though the governor among the nations, and the commander of all the Heavenly hosts, laid down his life as a ransom for sinners. Do you shudder at the contemplation of the scenes that were exhibited at Niagara and Queen-

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ron, on the 13th day of October ? Ascend with me and view the still more tragic scenes of Calvary. There the Son of God is expiring in the agonies of death ! There are assembled all the infernal legions of the prince of darkness ! How they hover round his cross ! Sin with his dreadful sting, and death clothed in all its terrors, attack the Saviour in his weakest state. Angels wait in awful suspense, to know what will be the issue—On this Monarch hangs the fate of our world—The Saviour bows his head—Exclaims, *it is finished* He dies !—And in his act of dying he establishes Angels in their glory ! And redeems man from his misery !

Brock when he was slain, only yielded up a life that was due to divine justice ; and which he must sooner or later have laid down, if it had not fallen a prey to war. But *Jesus the everlasting Father and the Prince of peace*, assumed our nature that he might die for our sins ; although the great I AM, the fountain of life, felicity and immortality, he *the just dies for the unjust*.

Brock died in defence of his sovereign, his country and his laws, and when he took the field, he had the hope of returning in triumph. But Christ the only Potentate, the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, took the field when he knew that his garments would reek with his blood ; he not only exposed himself to hazard but to certain death, and for those that were rebels against his government, and who had borne despite to the spirit of his grace.

Brock died suddenly. In the morning whilst collecting, arranging, forming and cheering his brave followers, that commander gloriously fell. A bullet from a rifle lodged in

his breast, whereas the Saviour died in pangs of tedious torture, after a prelude of the most exquisite sufferings, he expired, having endured all the protracted pangs of crucifixion.

Brock died like a warrior ; and surrounded by his friends, and his faithful soldiers, he gallantly fell in the field of battle, with scars of glory in his breast. But the Saviour died a shameful and a painful death. *See the immortal Prince hanging on an ignominious cross !—The rugged nails driven into his hands and feet—the cruel spear into his side—forsaken by his friends—and insulted by his enemies.* This, and more than this, he suffered for you ; O my countrymen, *though rich, yet for your sakes he became poor.* God forbid that I should exhibit the Saviour, to excite your sympathy, no, I exhibit him in his sufferings and death, that you may see the heinousness of your crimes in the grandeur of the victim slain for your redemption. By his death he has emancipated man from eternal woe ! By his resurrection he has destroyed the power of death. By his ascension to the right hand of God the father, he is carrying on, and will finally compleat the redemption of his church. O seek an interest in his death, this will atone for your guilt ; seek to be clothed with his righteousness, this will make you acceptable in the sight of God ; seek to be the object of his intercession, this will procure for you the blessing of immortality. To conclude.

The Divine Redeemer has obtained a most decisive triumph over all his and his churches enemies. Satan he has conquered ; Sin he has destroyed ; and death he has chained to his triumphant car. He has ascended on high, he led

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captivity captive : from his throne he has issued proclamations of pardon, of peace and of love to guilty man. But remember my brave countrymen in arms, that he is invested with sufficient authority, and with omnipotent power to vindicate the honor of his government. If for want of his grace you are unprepared for death and eternity, Oh ! how ill prepared are you for laying down your lives in defence of your country ! Make the Saviour your friend, he will either shield you in the battle, or he will take you to himself and crown you with glory, honor and immortality. Amen,

FINIS,

